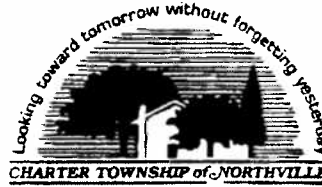


From:Northville Twp

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05/10/2010 14:00

#411 P.001/001



RICHARD M. HENNINGSSEN  
Treasurer

MARK J. ABBO  
Supervisor

SUE A. HILLEBRAND  
Clerk

MARJORIE BANNER  
Trustee

MARVIN GANS  
Trustee

MINDY HERRMANN  
Trustee

CHRISTOPHER ROOSEN  
Trustee

May 10, 2010

Michigan House of Representatives  
Intergovernmental and Regional Affairs Committee  
327 House Office Building  
Lansing, MI 48909 - 7514

Dear Committee Members,

As the Supervisor of Northville Township, I am writing to express my support for HB 6071, and ask that the members of the committee support this common-sense annexation reform bill as well.

I recognize that there are circumstances in which annexation can be used as a tool for economic growth, such as when a township is not equipped with the services or infrastructure to sustain that growth. However, annexation can also be used as a method for a developer to obtain greater influence on how a piece of land is used. It is this sort of annexation that passage of HB 6071 would prevent.

Northville Township is a full-service urban township with a population of nearly 29,000 residents and is fully capable of sustaining large scale economic growth. Our community prides itself on the integrity and consistency of the developments that exist here. Thus, it was disturbing that during the summer of 2008, the developer of a 414-acre plot of land in the township had the option of supporting an effort to annex the land to a neighboring city, rather than to continue good-faith negotiations with the Township. The annexation effort resulted in a conflict between two neighboring communities and ultimately stalled the development of the land and the economic benefits associated with development.

HB 6071 would protect townships with over 20,000 residents which provide certain services such as waste disposal and police and fire protection, from annexation. It is essential that this legislation passes to ensure that developed townships have the final say over how their land is used and that annexation remains a tool for economic growth.

Sincerely,

Charter Township of Northville

Mark J. Abbo  
Supervisor

